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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/921,351
	Filing Date	08/02/2001
	First Named Inventor	EHLING
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	BATG-6

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TC 1700

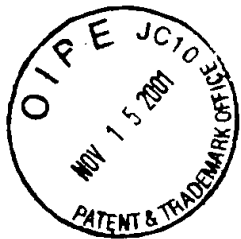
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Washington, D.C., United States of America

In re Application of EHLING

Serial No.: 09/921,351

Filed: 08/02/2001

For: Method and Device for Conditioning  
Comminuted Tobacco Material

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 1.97(b)**

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Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
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Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, the references listed below are being brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above identified patent application. The reference below is an equivalent of German Publication No. DE 197 34 364 A1 submitted to the U.S. Patent Office on November 6, 2001. A copy of the cited reference is enclosed.

U.S. Equivalent of German Publication No. DE 197 34 364 A1

Patent

Inventor

Date

6,158,441

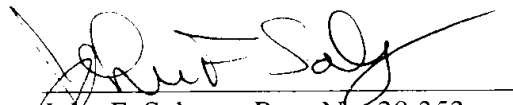
Grigutsch et al.

December 12, 2000

**Certification Under 37 CFR §1.97(b)**

This information is being submitted before the mailing of a first office action. As such, no fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Salazar", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: November 15, 2001

Encl: Form PTO/SB/21; PTO/SB/08A (including a copy of the references); Return postcard for evidencing receipt of above items